

**DRAWINGS**

**In the drawings:**

A replacement sheet for Fig. 1 is attached.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. With entry of this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 2, 11 and 15. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to certain informalities in the specification at pages 10, 11 and 23. Applicants have accordingly amended the specification and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

The Examiner objected to the specification with respect to the use of terms “right” and “left.” Applicants attach herewith a new replacement sheet for Fig. 1 in which Fig. 1 is rotated 180° clockwise. Applicants submit that the replacement Fig. 1 is consistent with the specification and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. With respect to claim 2, Applicants have amended the claim to clarify that the second plate comprises a gear portion and that the drive unit comprises a pinion gear. Applicants have also amended claim 15 to recite “a clutch.”

The Examiner was uncertain as to what structure corresponded to the “retaining device” recited in claims 1 and 15. The retaining device refers, for example and without limitation, to a stopper (see Fig. 4 and page 18, lines 7-11), a guide portion 253 (see Fig. 9 and page 25, lines 7-20) and a thick portion 351 (see Fig. 12 and page 22, lines 18-20). It is believed that the recitation “retaining device” properly describes these various structures.

Applicants note that claim 11 has been amended to more accurately claim the invention by reciting a thick portion formed on the third plate that restricts the rotation span of the third plate.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Application No. 10/396,607, which was published at US 2003/0184171 A1. The Examiner cited Fig. 15 of the ‘171 publication. Applicants herewith submit a declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132.

The declaration sets forth that the relevant portions of the disclosure of the '171 publication (with the exception of paragraphs 191-227 and actuator 301 in Figs. 6, 7, 8A and 8B) were invented by M. Fusegi, M. Aikawa, M. Teraoka, T. Tomita and N. Sodou. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants note the inventors of the present application are M. Fusegi, M. Aikawa, M. Teraoka, T. Tomita, N. Sodou, K. Tanaka and T. Shiba. After further review, it is believed that neither Mr. Tanaka nor Mr. Shiba are inventors of the claimed inventions. Accordingly, a request for correction of inventorship will be filed in due course to delete Mr. Tanaka and Mr. Shiba as inventors of the present application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 18-26, 34 and 35 of U.S. Application No. 10/396,607. Applicants submit a terminal disclaimer herewith and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.


In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 482782007000.

Dated: March 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Mehran Arjomand  
Registration No.: 48,231  
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP  
555 West Fifth Street, Suite 3500  
Los Angeles, California 90013  
(213) 892-5200

Attachments:

Declaration Pursuant To 37 CFR 1.132 (2 pp)

Terminal Disclaimer

Replacement Sheet - Fig. 1